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Tests to Membership in Toc H

I AM NOT AFRAID of organisation. I believe in it. I know that the dangers of red tape exist but I realise that tape is susceptible to scissors. Yet I am disquieted by certain tendencies in Toc H. Red tape abounds in the units which protest most noisily against the same commodity at Headquarters. The noisiest protestors use the most tape to hide the scissors. This frightens me. Consider the unit in X. John Brown's name is up for membership. Take a peep at their Executive. He has been a probationer eighteen months. The stalwart 'permanent' secretary says "He is not ready yet". They sit round the body in solemn conclave. They puff meditatively at their pipes. They have open before them pamphlets from which they get guidance upon membership. They read the latest memorandum from Area Headquarters. They return to John Brown. He is a good sort and everyone likes him. He leaps with joy to any task for others. He has had his eyes opened to the objective of Toc H. No one has heard him express himself about what are mysteriously called the 'deeper things'. Still, they must be careful about membership so they put him back three months. Three months later the matter comes up again. With a sense of responsibility faithfully discharged his name is sent on to the Elections Committee. Three months later John Brown has the news broken to him that he has been found worthy. It seems to me to be a lot of unnecessary Mumbo Jumbo. When units suspect this they get excited about the delay which occurs after the application has

been sent to the Elections Committee. I sometimes wonder how we succeed in holding any but tame 'rabbits'. An Oriental visitor attended a concert and (under the mistaken impression that the music was over) left before it began only to discover afterwards that he had only heard the orchestra tuning up. I am sure that quite a lot of men clear out of Toc H before they find out what it is all about.

Ought we then to be less careful about membership. Not a bit of it, only a little more sensible and a little less like a body of people set apart to chip and carve a man until he is misshapen to a standard type. "The trouble with amateur carvers is that the gravy so seldom matches the wallpaper". Many units today consist of wooden, lifeless, dispirited members or a background of crude splashes.

"That is all very well", you say, "but not very helpful, what is the remedy?" Be suspicious of all tests of membership. An Executive has reason to feel unhappy every time it feels moved to turn down or postpone an application for membership. It is a judgement not upon the prospective members but upon the unit. It means that the unit has the right order of things reversed. Our doors are open to every man, our membership is open to every man who, knowing what is involved, seeks it. If we are healthy units men will hold back because they hesitate to face what *they* feel is implied in membership.

Something like the following I should consider a normal approach. John Brown attends a meeting of the Toc H unit at X. He finds a mixed group of people present. They seem normal. They all seem glad to be there. Light impresses him. Folk near to him are friendly without being fussy. They sing together or some other turn happens. A chap talks about some human need in which they seem to be interested and takes it for granted that everyone will care and wish to help. Later someone who knows what he is talking about opens up a subject that causes others to talk. The subject really matters and the chaps really care. The whole time the group is like an intimate comfortable family circle and somehow the visitor does not feel that he is outside. Presently one of them says, "After refreshments we shall have our family prayers". Then there is a general

mix up. One or two fade away and then in the light of the Lamp someone simply and unaffectedly conducts prayers. It interests John Brown and he asks whether it will be alright for him to come again. He goes again and after a few visits asks one of his new acquaintances how you join Toc H and what the Sub. is. He is told that you don't join Toc H like you join most things. You find out what it is after and whether it is the sort of show into which you can fit. If the member knows his job he either tells him a little about Toc H or gives him some suitable literature to read. One night John Brown hears someone talk simply about the Toc H attitude to money and about members' gifts. Gradually the picture is filled in: He begins to know the chaps. He finds to his surprise that he knows quite a lot about most of them and he doesn't quite realise why this is. One night a job is talked about with which he feels he could help. He asks about it, as a result he shares it with one of the other chaps. At last he thinks he has got the hang of things so he asks again about membership. One of his friends or the chap they call pilot tells him plainly and without fuss about the Main Resolution. That frightens him at first. He is told to think it over. Presently after asking a few questions he seeks membership. He fills in a form. At the next meeting of the Executive it is brought forward. Someone says "John's all right". You see he has been absorbed into the family. He is told it will take a little time for it to go through usual channels. He doesn't mind. He knows he is part of the family.

That gives some idea of how I feel membership ought to happen in a family. Do you say what about sponsors. My reply would be, they are crutches necessary in the lame and the halt units. Do you say some folk would listen to all that was said about the Main Resolution and join without caring? Probably you are right but if the spirit of Toc H is in the unit they will soon fall by the wayside or enter right in. Toc H may be every man's club but it is not every man's meat. Someone says units are not like that one. I know they are not but they could be if we were prepared to build bravely. At present areas are littered with units which like our big cities have happened on a fit of absent-mindedness. But that is another story.

H.L.

Forward March—VII.

A Summing Up

This series of articles setting forth the ideas with which some of the chief Youth organisations face the world of today, concludes with a summing-up by HUBERT SECRETAN, late Hon. Administrator of Toc H, who holds that leadership is the crux of the problem.

THE FIRST FIVE ARTICLES in the series "Forward March" have given a picture of the variety of work for and with young people carried on by some of the principal national voluntary organisations. The sixth has added a useful note as to the part which statutory education authorities can, if they are willing, play in strengthening that work.

Looking through the series one is struck by the diversity of methods and the similarity of aim. The game of scouting, the uniformed discipline of the brigade, the community of the club, each appeals to different types and temperaments. But by the application of their various methods, all the organisations are seeking to help boys and girls to find themselves through the practical experience of a common life and also to learn how much the health of the groups depends on the free and willing contribution of each individual. Personal character and good citizenship are two sides of the same coin. They cannot be minted separately.

Modern society is so complex that some degree of regimentation is unavoidable. The danger is that it should suffocate individual effort and variety of outlook. The survival of democracy, as we understand it, depends on keeping both of these in full vigour and at the same time ready to contribute to the wellbeing of the whole. The voluntary organisations have thus a vital contribution to make. It is essential that they should have the access of strength that will enable them to go on making it. In this country we are rather apt to take things for granted, and we do not always realise how rich and how gloriously various is the tradition of voluntary service which we have inherited. It has not been the prerogative of any one section of the community but has been shared by all.

It is, therefore, particularly important to grasp that nearly all the articles in this series stress the need for some adult leadership. There is no question of the organisations getting in each other's way. Between them all they still only include a minority of boys and girls in the formative years of adolescence. At this stage in our national development there is urgent need for extension, and extension depends primarily upon leaders. If they are not forthcoming the local education authorities, who now have a statutory responsibility for the development of what is called the Youth Service, will be driven, most of them unwillingly, to fill the gap by providing a uniform pattern of youth centres staffed entirely by professional leaders. I have never forgotten being visited in my club by a polite young German (this was in pre-Hitler days) who after seeing what we were doing and expressing great interest, asked to be directed to the headquarters of the national youth movement. He simply could not understand that there was no such thing. It is perhaps not too fanciful to see in that urge for a uniform, an universal pattern of youth training one of the factors that has made democracy so difficult to maintain in Germany. Let us understand fully the value of our own richly various inheritance and resolve to maintain it.

What does leadership in these organisations entail? First let us make it clear that we are not here concerned with full-time leadership. Most of the voluntary organisations dealing with young people have a proportion of such leaders. They are needed, just as Tòc H needs a full-time staff, partly for the direction of large centres where the demands of organisation and administration are heavy, but mainly to be available to train, encourage and assist volunteers who can only give their spare time to the work.

It is with these volunteers that we are here concerned. Greatly daring let us try to list some of the requirements. First *readiness to fulfil an exacting job*. The actual amount of time required to act as leader of a group varies with the type of organisation and the local circumstances. But it is likely in many cases to be of the order of three nights a week. This is a large assignment. It explains why many Tòc H men who have felt the call to make this their particular sphere, have had to face

dropping out of the Toc H family through which they first got the idea. The family, if it is a true family, will understand and will welcome its absent member all the more warmly when he can revisit it because it honours the reason which took him away. There is probably no sphere of leadership in which 'sticking to your last' is more important. Adolescents are going through a period of strain. They will let you down sometimes for no reason and the only way to train them in reliability is for them to learn it by finding that their leader never lets them down. It should be added that there are many 'specialist' jobs in youth organisations less exacting in time than general leadership, but of great value. The man interested in sport, drama, art or hobbies has real scope on a single evening a week, but he will equally need to acquire the essential characteristics of leadership.

Secondly, the *capacity to understand*. Youth leadership is no job for either martinets or sentimentalists. He who comes to it must learn to share naturally with his boys, to talk and work with them 'on the level' and not from a superior height. But he must learn also to preserve an adult's outlook and judgement. Boys will expect it of him and will have no respect for one who tries to be that most fatuous of things, a man pretending to be a boy. In all this a sense of humour may well prove a saving grace.

Thirdly those who have read the series will note how article after article lays stress on the *spiritual basis* of such work. Never before has it been so important or so difficult for young people to find something deeper than material interests as the basis of their lives. There may be—and once a man is trusted will be—opportunities to teach. But it is from the kind of person the leader shows himself in all the little relationships of group life, that boys will judge the value of his religion. This is a hard saying but it is true. And the man willing to school himself in humility need not fear it.

Lastly there are no doubt men of genius who know instinctively how to deal with boys. Most of us have got to learn, and *training* in the accumulated wisdom which each organisation has won by years of experiment and experience is not to be despised by those who wish to give their best. The Youth Service Committee of Toc H recently circulated to Areas informa-

tion on the training arrangements of each organisation, and Alec Churcher at 47 Francis Street will gladly help if asked.

To sum up, then, here is a great need. It requires certain characteristics which all Toc H men do not happen to possess. How dull Toc H would be if they did! But many do and the problem—a real one—is whether they can and should find the time required. Those who can will certainly be opening the door to great happiness for themselves and others. Some—rightly—will not be able to do so. The question must now be referred to individual judgement, in the hope that this series of articles will result in some members of Toc H being able to say to themselves "Forward March".

H.A.S.

Toc H and the Cinema

The increasing use being made by Toc H units of the portable cinema as a means of service gives aptness to this article, abridged from THE COMPASS (the Toc H Journal of Southern Africa).

RECENTLY a number of our Toc H units have been indulging themselves in a new kind of job—the provision of cinema shows for institutions or other places where this type of entertainment is not normally available. This is a modern job for modern times, and we all welcome it. Evidence of its increasing popularity is now becoming very noticeable.

The primary object of this scheme was, from the purely Toc H point of view, to bring friendship and fellowship into the lives of many lonely and unfortunate people; the mere provision of entertainment in itself was intended to be secondary to this, and so far I think we have been successful, to some extent, in both.

We have now attained a certain degree of experience in putting on these shows and acquiring technical ability; we have made many new friends and, I feel sure, been instrumental in providing a great deal of pleasure for a number of people who have small share of it.

The problem now arises—and this is the real purpose of this article—are we to be content to leave this routine as it is? Is it sufficient as it is, or can we improve upon it?

Personally I feel that we can do so, and that *Toc H* has within its grasp one of the most powerful media of modern times for doing good amongst the community. The standard of educational films has reached such a great degree of excellence that I would suggest to our Cinema Teams that more and more of these should be included in their programmes. For gone are the days when the average educational film meant fifteen minutes of boredom; now the great majority of them are entertaining and useful, and a high degree of skill in producing them has been attained by British Instructional Films. I commend them to your notice.

Furthermore, in making these suggestions, I am thinking in particular of our child audiences; in spite of what you may hear to the contrary, children *do* enjoy a good educational film, and in most of them, especially those produced by the company mentioned, the commentary is light, often humorous, and certainly within the grasp of the average child mind.

I hope the day is not far distant when we shall produce in this country films dealing with current problems of race and economy, and particularly those dealing with farming and industry. Subjects which might be found suitable for filming offer boundless opportunities for an enterprising firm or Government body.

Side by side with these will be forthcoming films from outside sources dealing with international problems, and with them suggestions for their solution.

The cinema has the power to break down barriers of race and creed, for people have lost confidence in each other, and they have to regain it. Without the spirit of friendship which should embrace all without exception, no unity is possible, and without unity all will be lost.

The film of today is confronted with a great task; the educational film in particular can help to create lasting values and conquer hate amongst men.

ALAN DEVERALL.

Allswell that Ends Well—II

Last month the 'documents' showed how Allswell group in the South Midlands Area came into existence. We shall now watch it getting under way.

FIRST ENTRY IN THE LOG OF ALLSWELL GROUP

Wednesday, 21.4.'48: The third meeting since we were made a Group was held in the Baptist schoolroom, not in the Secretary's house as usual, being a special occasion.

Present—Besides the seven men composing Allswell Group, one or more members from each of the units in the Broad Acres District—Gobbleston and Coaltip Branches and Fagend, Long Boobly, Crush and Dewlap Groups. Having invited a few likely Allswell blokes as visitors, we made a grand turnout of twenty-three altogether.

Rushlight Presented—the District Secretary, Mr. Frank Fish supported by the District Pilot, Mr. George Grandjohn, issued us with our Rushlight. He made a short speech, explaining what the double cross on the Rushlight meant and how we had to maintain our light by fellowship and service to our neighbours.

Initiation—Next, the District Secretary initiated our Secretary, Mr. Chas Brick, and Mr. Fred Burly on the new Rushlight, and put on their buttonhole badges. Then he took the ceremony of 'Light', which with so many present and having used a plain candle at our previous meetings we chaps found very impressive.

Music and Eats.—The Coaltip Jobbie took over the community singing and after a few choruses he warmed us up well with an action song, "One finger, one thumb keep moving." Then a visitor, A. K. Yowl, Esq., who has a lovely voice, obliged with two songs and we finished with the South Midlands favourite, "When the cows get loose." After that we had tea and some fine eats, served by the ladies working under Mrs. Brick in the kitchen. We gave them a rousing cheer and, my word, they deserved it.

Talk—Mr. John Leader, Chairman of Gobbleston Branch, gave us a grand talk. He told us about the early days of his unit and all the snags they had struck. Some of his stories were very funny. The end part about the Christian foundation of Toc H was straight from the shoulder and gave us a lot to think about.

Homegoing Prayers were taken by our padre, the Rev. M. Steadfast, the Baptist Minister, and the meeting ended at 9.45 p.m. It was a smashing evening.

DISTRICT SECRETARY TO FRED BURLY

Dear Fred,

Thanks a lot for the copy of your minutes. It is a good idea to keep a Log, but don't bother to send me a copy every time—it will give us both too much work. Just two points—(1) we like to get rid of 'Misters' in Toc H and be quite free with each other. Give members nicknames, if you like, when they come naturally, but don't force the pace. As you know, Frank Fish's nickname is 'Fortissimo', because of his initials and George Grandjohn obviously got called 'Gee Gee' for the same reason. (2) This may seem a very small point but it counts. Nowadays we always spell 'Group' with a small 'g', because a group is not the proper unit in Toc H but only a probationary stage of the Branch, which is the real thing. I think you will become a Branch in a very short time, if you go on as you have begun. Then you will receive a Lamp, the true symbol of Toc H, in place of your Rushlight and be given bigger responsibilities in the Family. We all enjoyed our visit to Allswell and felt there was a grand spirit in the meeting.

Yours ever,

As Chance would have it

SECRETARY OF LONG BOOBLY TO SECRETARY OF ALLSWELL

Dear Chas.,

I was very sorry I could not get over to your 'do' last week, but our two chaps who went enjoyed it no end. If Long Boobly can give you a hand any time (though the buses out your way are awkward) we shall be very glad. Meanwhile there's something in which Allswell can help us.

You may remember the discussion at the District Team a week or two back—the first one you were at—about our hut. It is a fine H.Q. for our group, just what the doctor ordered, but I am afraid we put it up before we really had the money in hand. And now the builder (he is a small man who works on his own) is pressing us. We have scraped up ten quid between us for him to go on with, but we simply must get the rest of the cash soon, and it's a tidy sum.

Well, one of our member's, Joey, had the bright idea of running a fete on a Saturday afternoon. We don't often have fun and games in the village and we ought to do well. The date is June 19th, and we hope you will all come over. We have got a nice garden promised for it; we only want the weather.

In the meantime Joey, who is full of tips, has got two of his friends to promise us a couple of geese and a bottle of whisky. He may get another of gin too. We are going to raffle these and, if everyone in the District will back us, we ought to do very well. We are not putting the raffle on the bill we are having printed, because we are not too sure about the police, but we have got books of tickets (20 in each) out already and I enclose two books for your unit. If your members and their friends will get busy on these right away, we shall have quite a bit in the kitty long before the fete comes off. It will be a bit of fun and the tickets are only a bob a time.

You can have more tickets if you can use them. Send back what you don't sell, with the money. And good hunting!

Yours in Toc H.

ALLSWELL SECRETARY TO DISTRICT PILOT

Dear G.G.,

I'm not sure I ought not to write this letter to the District Padre, but he's been abroad, as you know, since before I joined and I haven't met him yet.

Well, the trouble is a letter I have had from Long Boobly—I enclose it for you to see before I answer it. Of course we shall have to be thinking about getting a room of our own in Allswell when we grow a bit, but we should like to help Long Boobly over their hut if we can. I read the letter to our blokes at last night's meeting, and Padre Steadfast was very worried about it

and thought we ought to take a strong line over the raffle tickets. Several of our chaps felt the same, one or two weren't quite sure. What do you think?

Yours ever,

AREA SECRETARY TO ALLSWELL SECRETARY

Dear Chas,

I have seen your letter to G.G. about the Long Boobly hut, and as there has been other correspondence of the same kind, I am sending out the enclosed letter to all the units in the Broad Acres District and a few others near by.

Yours always,

Enclosure

Dear Members,

A matter has arisen in connection with the unit's headquarters at Long Boobly which I feel is too urgent to wait for the meeting of the Broad Acres District Team on Tuesday week, where it would have come up in the usual course.

Long Boobly, as you know, is running a village fête on June 19th, to raise money they urgently need to pay for their hut. This in itself is an excellent idea, for they plan to use their hut for the benefit of the whole village, where such a meeting-place is badly needed. The fête will also give them a chance to entertain their neighbours and to put across to them some idea of what Toc H is all about. I know you will back their effort.

The plan for a fête arose after the last District Team meeting and there is one feature about it that calls for immediate attention—and, I hope, a common mind—from all of us. This concerns the proposed raffle, for which you will already have received tickets for sale among your members and outside. I have personally no quarrel either with geese or with whisky in their proper place, though opinions may differ about the latter—as opinions *ought* to differ in Toc H about most things. But the question at issue is methods of money-raising and, beyond that, the whole Toc H view about money.

None of us pretend to be saints but we try to stick to a few simple principles. I am not going to moralise, but only to ask any of you who have any doubts on this particular issue to read Jack Harrison's little pamphlet on *Toc H and Money* again.

There you will find our Chief Accountant regarding money as a gift of God, as sacred as anything else entrusted to us to use. That seems to me not just pious words, but sheer common sense. If you feel like that about it, you will naturally want to get money as honestly as you can—that is by doing some work for it, and to spend it in ways that seem to you worth while. It is too good a thing to be the sport of chance—and that is what raffles, sweepstakes and such like reduce it to. Please don't think that I am attacking chaps, some of our own members among them, who like a bit of a flutter in this way or that. That is their own affair, to be decided upon in their own minds. I am, however, saying that *Toc H as a body*, as a Christian body, ought to keep out of all this. It is a very poor lead towards the things our movement stands for and it seriously offends the conscience of some of our neighbours; it doesn't merely spoil our own name among other folk, it lets the side down.

Now I want to add this—and it is very important. We have got to deal with things like this in the Toc H way, and I think the Toc H way is never to say 'Thou shalt not'. When I went to see the Long Boobly chaps about the raffle we argued the toss for quite a long time. I did not tell them to pack it up or threaten to turn on the heavy guns of H.Q. or anything totalitarian like that. We just talked it out and in the end they were unanimously agreed that there were better ways of raising money than this. That is what we must always try to do in our Toc H dealings—to learn the better way by trial and error, and it takes time. I would not have told you all this if Long Boobly had not expressly asked me to do so. It puts us right all round with each other, I hope.

Long Boobly has cancelled the raffle—they will easily make up for it in other ways. They had rather a sticky time explaining the reason to their kind friends who had offered the geese and whisky, but the unit hasn't lost their interest. Will you please destroy the raffle tickets you have received and recall any you have issued. And that will be that—except that we have all learnt something useful.

Yours always,

A Personal Problem

ALLSWELL SECRETARY TO AREA SECRETARY

Dear Flip,

Many thanks for putting us wise about the Long Boobly business. They are a nice crowd and I'm glad it turned out all right in the end. Being so new to the game, we got rather hot and bothered over it but you soon set us right. We liked the way you put it.

I always seem to be bothering you, and perhaps I ought to write to Fortissimo, on the District Team. But you are just the right person, we feel, to answer this one. The man up at the big house here, Allswell Park, has just got back from some Government job in India. He's a major, ex-Service now, been through the ranks of course. He's quite young. His name is Sir Percival Chase. You can imagine we were taken aback when he walked into our meeting, a bit late, last night, for only two of us had even set eyes on him before. He explained that he'd struck Toc H in a Services Club in India and joined it as a General member, and that he had seen our notice that we put up at the grocer's in High Street and just come along to see what's doing. He is ever so easy to talk to, but of course he isn't quite the same sort as the rest of us. He asked what jobs we were doing and offered to give a hand, and we didn't quite know what to say because you see we haven't got going on anything very special yet. He drank a cup of tea and yarned a bit (he's seen a lot) and stayed to family prayers and then gave two of our chaps a lift in his car on the way up to the big house.

Now, Flip, if you have time could you contact him—you would know how to put it across to him. Also I think we badly want somebody like you to come and yarn to us about job-mastery. Perhaps I'd better ask the District Jobbie. If you come yourself, have tea with Mrs. Brick and I before the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

AREA SECRETARY TO ALLSWELL SECRETARY

Dear Chas,

I rang up Sir Percival Chase when I got your letter and fixed to go and see him when I am down your way next Thursday. Even if he gives me tea, I refuse to be cheated out of one of

Mrs. Brick's buns. So I shall drop in on you afterwards but can't stay long. Get the District Jobbie to do his stuff—he's a good number.

Yours ever,

To Sum Up

Allswell have really staged their first guest-night, with a programme of the usual pattern. It obviously went well, for it was not stale to them, as it has been allowed to become in some hoary-headed Branches. It was rather hard luck that they found themselves involved in a 'moral problem' about money so early in their career; but they sought advice and got it. Normally the Area Secretary might have preferred to deal personally with the units rather than by a circular letter, but the raffle tickets were already widely broadcast and a quick move was needed. As it is, his exposition of the Toc H way of dealing with such things may stand them in good stead when other problems come along. And now they find themselves faced with both sides of Toc H family life at once—the building of a fellowship involving an unfamiliar mixture, and the undertaking of service which needs choice and training. Next month will see them up to the neck in both.

BALBUS.

Children Without Roots

ON THE AFTERNOON of a late summer day in 1945 watchers on an airfield in the North of England saw large bomber planes, one after another touching down. They bore unusual burdens, for out of each came thirty children. The R.A.F. men, who also came from the inside of the planes, had acted as escorts, almost as nurses—and very friendly and effective nurses too—on the long hop from Czechoslovakia to Westmorland. But there was some bustle and consternation when it was discovered that there were not three hundred children

but three hundred and one. What was to happen to the young lad, who was found to be a stowaway on the last plane? Well! Clearly he could not be sent back: the air would not absorb him: he could not fly back to Prague. He was one of those lost youngsters, of which from time to time stories crop up from every part of disturbed Europe. Hearing that a transport of children were to leave Prague for England, he had waited his opportunity and climbed on to one of the lorries taking the children to the airport. For months he had wandered in Central Europe, fending for himself, and he had heard that people in England were kind to children; and there was food there too. Well, well! The immigration regulations might be adjusted to meet an unusual case, but it was not wise to ignore health regulations, so after an hour or two of agitated activity, off the stowaway was driven to a hospital for a week or two of quarantine.

Meanwhile the three hundred expected child guests were driven off in coaches and lorries through the growing evening darkness to the camp prepared for them on the Lakeside at Windermere.

Youngsters, who for years had had no more than two feet by six of bed board, now found themselves in small dormitories; the older boys and girls even had tiny single bedrooms. What an amazing change! For these children were orphan children chosen from the many who had survived the horrors and privations of the Concentration Camp at Theresienstadt. They were not the most pitiful child victims of the camp, for there had had to be a medical examination and no child with infectious disease, or detectable tuberculosis, could be accepted for the group for England.

At first sight these three hundred children seemed surprisingly normal. Some of the boys and most of the teen-age girls were puffy and overweight. They were anxious to learn, but when classes were started, they were found to tire very quickly. The same was true of games. They started with great gusto, but exhaustion soon showed itself.

The helpers who watched over them, found that the younger children often woke themselves at night with cries of fear. The

older ones often cried and moaned in their sleep.

A small group of Christian children were taken from the camp at Windermere after six weeks to a Home School in Somerset, where a devoted group of German teachers and welfare workers began the work of rehabilitation. In the months that followed, the hidden hurts of the horrors which had preceded their rescue came to light. The children had to be won again to confidence in any adult however friendly.

Kindliness was looked upon as a trick; firmness was suspected as only the forerunner to the cruelty they had learned to expect from those in authority. With patience and skilled treatment, the children were gradually won back not only to physical health, but to a certain degree of childlike confidence in a friendly world.

What is to be the future of these children? That has to be decided for each child individually.

Josef Berger is now nearly fifteen. News has been given that the Vienna foster-parents, who cared for him when he was a little boy may be able to have him back when conditions improve in Austria; that may be the happiest settlement of Josef's future.

Harry Wegner, whose mother is known to be dead and whose father has not been heard of since 1944, must be presumed to have no living relatives. He may emigrate to America, but that can only be done if the kindly people there who have helped to support him are fully informed and realise that Harry is not an easy proposition. His experiences have left their mark on him: he is a difficult boy.

Peter Harringer, now fourteen, has had news of his German foster-parents, but they live in the Russian Zone of Germany.

Hans Koln, aged twelve, has no known living relatives.

Max Lossau is a bright intelligent boy of thirteen. His brother and sister are twins, Joachim and Inge; not as bright as Max but responding to affection.

Sina Gossman, the youngest of this small Christian group, was one of Europe's strays. It is not quite certain where her home was, Latvia or Lithuania. Fortunately a kindly English couple visited the hostel, grew fond of the child, and have taken her to their own home. The change has been gratifying. Sina is learning to be natural and friendly; she is growing out of her fears.

Elfriede Zable is an Austrian girl of eleven. Her mother died in the Concentration camp, her father before that.

Sam Berlowitz, aged fourteen, has no father. A brother and two older sisters are also in England. The mother has been heard of in Berlin, but the experiences of the last decade have deadened her feelings, and there is little hope that she can cope with the responsibilities of a family of growing boys and girls, from whom she has been so long separated.

For the past eighteen months the children have been in a hostel with English children, some of the remnants of the great war evacuation movement. What most of them now need is a home: a place to which they can feel they belong, and in which they can learn the normal ways of family life.

Some of the older boys have left school and are facing the adventures, the complexities and the dangers of adolescence.

Are there British homes into which some of this little group could be rightly and fittingly absorbed? BERTHA L. BRACEY.

The Dark Night is Over

A Play by Padre Shaun Herron, broadcast in the B.B.C. Home Service programme on May 3.

Can any Englishman understand an Irishman? Can any Irishman understand an Englishman? Do Irishmen understand each other? To the first question I am tempted to answer categorically "No". To the second, having in mind Mr. Bernard Shaw, an equally definite "Yes". And to the third, after listening to this play, that at least Padre Shaun Herron understands.

The *Radio Times*' notice, although it described the play accurately as a Tragedy, was misleading in that its opening sentence "There are footsteps, screams, explosions and corpses" suggested that it was a Melodrama of the blood-and-thunder variety. It was not. On the contrary it reminded one of the inevitability which characterises Greek Tragedy.

The chief character is a woman, Fiall O'Rorke, leader in her village of the Irish against the British troops. As the English soldiery advances she organises resistance, a resistance which ends, not only in her own death, but in that of her children and of their father who commands the detachment. The depth of the tragedy is reached in the realisation by the children, who had fallen in love with each other, that they were brother and sister, and the part played by the son in the death of his parents.

For myself—and for some other listeners—the most vivid of the characters was the Roman Catholic Priest, Father Laverty, excellently played by Patrick Boxill. I hope that we shall meet Father Laverty again, and I hope that we shall have more plays by Shaun Herron.

J.D.

The man behind the microphone. Listen to him, and ask all your friends to listen, when he broadcasts at 8.25 p.m. on Sunday

June the Twenty-Seventh

THE DATE FIRST, for it links us with the man. In the days before a pre-war fire sent the Crystal Palace up in smoke, there gathered in the grounds of that great building in South London some 8,000 men intent upon celebrating the Coming-of-Age of Toc H. Before the Festival Evening inside the 'greenhouse' with the Lamplighting by the Duke of Kent and the Masque, *Master Valiant*, a monster garden-party culminated in a general assembly on the terraces. From a balcony set high above the heads of the audience on the face of the great steel and glass cliff of the 'Centre Transept', six men spoke to them all with the aid of a battery of loud-speakers. Messages from the Family the world over were read by Rex Calkin. Neville Talbot bent to the microphone and introduced Tubby. Barkis and Hubert Secretan were called upon to speak. And the Chairman of the Festival Committee was 'in the chair'—Freddie Bain. The date was June 27, 1936.

This year, precisely twelve years after, at 8.25 p.m. on Sunday, June 27, Sir Frederick Bain is to speak into a B.B.C. microphone. He will appeal on behalf of Toc H to a far greater audience. A member of Toc H in Lancashire and London since 1923, he is known to the public as Deputy Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries and as President of the Federation of British Industries. Why? Let his "Profile" in *The Observer* tell of him; we quote with the Editor's permission:

"Bain was born in Macduff and went to school there and also at Banff. His father never had more than a small income, but for the education of his family no sacrifice was too great. His death, when his son was seventeen, destroyed the plans for a university career. His widow moved to Aberdeen, and young Bain went into a fertiliser business. He soon impressed his

employer, and when he asked to attend afternoon lectures at Aberdeen University he was given the time off to do so. And so a chemist was born, but as an out-student he could take no degree. Haldane came to Aberdeen to talk about his Territorial Army, and so a soldier was born, too. Bain eagerly joined the Gordons Fourth (Territorial) Battalion and was a sergeant when the war broke out in 1914.

"A commission came fairly soon; so did wounds and decorations. An arm was lost to Germany and a quick brain released for the new warfare. In 1916 Captain Frederick Bain, aged 27, was Deputy Director of Chemical Warfare Supply at the Ministry of Munitions. After the war he moved to the United Alkali Company.

"Liverpool was good in his eyes. He met and married the gifted daughter of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Isabel Adami, and that was very heaven. It was an eminently happy marriage. She was very well read and wrote well, too. (She died in the autumn of 1945.)

"Alkalis and marriage were not all. There was the University Club, the Repertory Theatre, Toc H, Boys' Clubs, politics. Bain is a great enjoyer. Be it a good piece of cooking or a good piece of writing, he takes the benefit with the zest of a boy as well as with the judgment of a connoisseur. It seems typical of his vigorous temperament that, though he does not neglect modern poetry, he has little affection for most of it; he prefers to read and re-read the giants, and, among the giants, Milton more, perhaps, than any. In prose, Boswell. He has, so to say, literary staying power in an age that is scant of literary breath.

"When the great chemical merger came, he moved to London and steadily upward in I.C.I. He was chairman of the Chemical Control Board at the Ministry of Supply from 1941 to 1944, and also chairman of the Chemical Planning Committee at the Ministry of Production from 1942 to 1944.

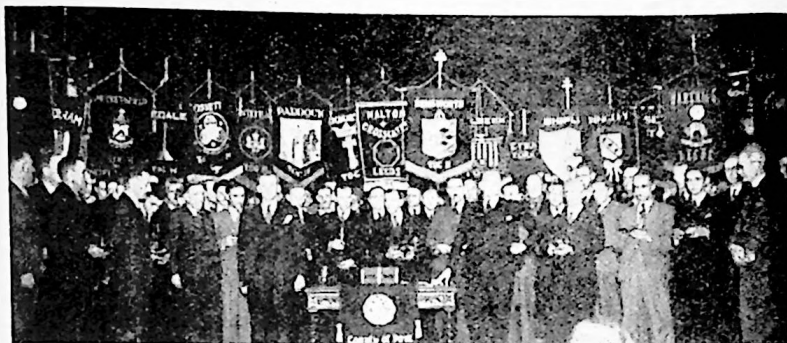
"Now, in peace, he brings to his high industrial posts the sympathies of a self-made boy from Macduff as well as the experience of a great industrial career. He has little interest in the stock market side of big finance, but immense interest in human nature. Staff and labour problems—he loathes the word personnel—are, after chemistry, his favourites, and Capital



has no representative more sensitive to the needs of the worker.

"It is typical of the man that he spent the night of January 25 proposing the toast of the immortal memory of Robert Burns to the I.C.I. workers in Ayrshire. He rejoices in books and plays and the people who can share his pleasure. In the evening he refuses to bring business papers home. For there he has always his books and his friends."

On June the twenty-seventh we hope he will make many more friends for himself and for Toc H.

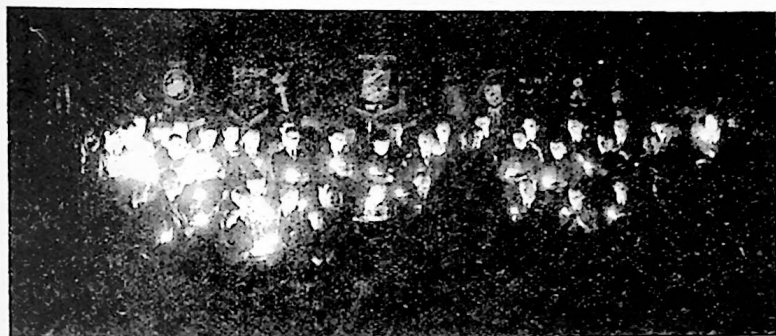


Yorkshire Area Festival

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 3, motor coaches from all parts of Yorkshire set out for Leeds, and not all of them carried spectators for the Rugby League semi-final match at Headingley, important though that was for Yorkshire sportsmen. A number carried Toc H members, who were attending their Festival in the same city, and about 500 men considered this more important than the match.

The doors of the Oxford Place Methodist Chapel were open to receive them, and many old friendships were revived on its steps. The service was arranged and conducted by the Rev. John Brightman, West Yorks Area Padre, assisted by Padre George Griffiths of Hull, and Padre B. W. Crawford of Swale District. Padre Ken Bloxham, Manchester Area Padre, preached the sermon, recalling first how the Old Testament prophets had been very outspoken about the injustices and degradations rampant in their time, and how the course of history had been changed by individuals and small groups of men. He then passed to more recent times and spoke of the ways in which we in Toc H should put into practice these age-old teachings.

After an interval for tea, and we had all assembled at the Albert Hall (a smaller edition of the London one) a large man with a large voice appeared on the platform and announced that we would sing. We did! The Chairman of the West Yorks Area Executive, S. E. Arnold, in his opening remarks, dwelt long on the virtues of Yorkshire and Yorkshiremen and then there followed a procession of Banners, Lamps and Rushlights, from the rear of the hall to the stage. When all were in position there was an array which might gladden the hearts of men who, in lonely units, often feel isolated and frustrated. After all the lights were kindled, the Chairman took 'Light', impressive as usual in a large gathering.



Our guest speaker, Cyril Osborne, (M.P. for Louth, and a member of Toc H), followed. He commenced by referring to our former Patron's words at a much earlier Festival, calling on Toc H to produce men of understanding minds. The speaker emphasised and enlarged upon this aspect of Toc H life, and told how his own understanding had been widened by living in a Mark in earlier days. We were entertained by the thoughts of the Foreign Ministers doing likewise. He then dwelt upon some of the problems confronting our country in the international field and also in the domestic one, and pleaded for toleration between conflicting political parties, and in particular he asked that we pray for those holding high office, and bearing loads as great as ever before put on the shoulders of Britain's Ministers.

After a short interval, the Chairman introduced Padre Leggate, who gave an inspiring address. He spoke of the lamentable apathy which exists amongst men today, particularly morally and spiritually, and showed how small groups of men with sufficient conviction could sway the mass of the people for good or evil. He exhorted us to be sure of our ground, to re-examine our fundamental beliefs, and to be prepared to provide an alternative for the materialistic doctrines prevalent in the world today, "for make no mistake", Herbert said, "our opponents know their facts". Speaking of the developments of science, he emphasised the fact that man did not invent anything new, but merely developed natural properties which had been inherent in the Earth from its beginning. He pointed out that if we put ourselves right with God our Father, we need fear no consequence of man's misuse of scientific knowledge.

Herbert's talk brought into focus the thoughts which had been in the minds of members when listening to Ken Bloxham and Cyril Osborne, and one felt that we had indeed been given the privilege of sharing the workings of three "understanding minds".

J.W.C.

College of the Sea

This article on the Seafarer's Education Service is written by the Director, RONALD HOPE, M.A. If you would like to have further details, or to help in the work, please write to him at the Headquarters of the Service, Selwyn House, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

IT WILL PERHAPS BE NEWS to readers that Albert Mansbridge the founder of the Workers' Educational Association, also founded in 1919 the Seafarers' Education Service and later, in 1938, extended its scope by establishing the College of the Sea. The objects of the Service—a voluntary and non-profit making Society, are to provide educational facilities for members of the

British Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, and libraries on shore and in ship for the use of seafarers.

At the start of the Service, the provision of ship's libraries was a primary consideration and nowadays up-to-date libraries are supplied to crews of 1,200 ships, 60 per cent of the ocean-going tonnage in the Merchant Navy. The books supplied are carefully selected and representative of the best in all kinds of reading. They are changed regularly (between three and four times a year) from a stock of some 180,000 volumes, and the Service spends between £6,000 and £8,000 yearly on new books.

Unfortunately, the Service has never been rich enough to provide these libraries free of charge. They are installed on the orders of ship-owners who pay an annual contribution, which works out something like a halfpenny a week for the loan of a book. In return their crews obtain a library service which is as near to that provided by public libraries on shore as the special conditions obtaining at sea permit. In practice, any seaman can get the books he wants from the Librarian, or by writing direct to the Service, in London.



*Corner of the Library at
Selwyn House*

As the library system extended, seafarers began to use the Service as an advice bureau to which they could refer questions on books or educational matters. To put this side of the work on a regular basis the College of the Sea was established. Now, *any seafarer*, whether his ship-owner subscribes to the Library Service or not, may borrow any book on any subject (exclusive of expensive nautical text books and light fiction), for payment of postage. In addition, with the co-operation of 1,200 voluntary tutors, all expert in their subjects, any seafarer can receive

practical advice and tutorial guidance in non-vocational subjects and hobbies of all kinds.

A word on how this tutorial system works. The tutors are all volunteers and, since they are all busy people, are not asked to help more than one man at a time. This means that, if the system is to work satisfactorily, there must be more tutors than there are students in a limitless variety of subjects. English, mathematics and modern languages are the subjects most in request, but the College also has students in astronomy, dietetics, geology, logic, ornithology, physics, religion, shorthand and zoology—to mention only a few of the subjects that are asked for. No 'set' courses are used, and the plan of the work done is a personal matter between tutor and student. The great bulk of it is by correspondence, though some tutors invite their pupils to see them when they are on leave. The only charge made to the student is an initial fee of 10s. 6d.

The Service also offers annual prizes for short stories, poems, essays, photographs, paintings and models from seafarers, and in conjunction with the Royal Society of Arts, offers scholarships to young seamen to enable them to take their Second Mate's Certificate.

Many Toc H members are already "Friends of the Service" and make a small annual contribution, but important as financial support is to any voluntary society this is by no means the only way in which help is needed. There is always a great demand for voluntary tutors, not only university professors, schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, but for artists, musicians, writers and professional men of all kinds, as well as those with special interests in such hobbies as stamp-collecting, model-making, rug-making, and so on. For the College to work efficiently it must always be able to call on someone who is knowledgeable in every field of human interest: and your help here would be invaluable. You may not be asked to do very much. Your student, if you have one, may prove to be disappointing, but its voluntary tutors are the source of the College's strength. Will you please consider lending a hand in the work?

R.H.

Multum in Parvo

✽ THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL, the first to be held on a national scale since 1938, will take place in London on December 11 and 12, 1948. The Saturday is the thirty-third anniversary of the opening of Talbot House in Poperinghe and the Sunday is Tubby's birthday.

✽ ALL BRANCHES in Great Britain and Ireland will be invited to send representatives. They will be asked in due course to decide the number, which may have to be limited to a maximum of eight members per Branch (including the bearer of the Branch Banner, if any) to fit the capacity of the Royal Albert Hall, the largest and best hall in London for the purpose of the Saturday afternoon and evening programmes. It is hoped that each probationary group approved at that time will be found space for four representatives. Beds on Saturday night will be available for visiting members at a low cost. The Services and the Family Gathering on Sunday will be open to all members and their male friends.

✽ TOC H (WOMEN'S SECTION) will hold their National Festival in London on October 30 and 31. In order that there may be a fully representative gathering in the space available, the Toc H Festival in December must be limited to men only.

✽ MEMBERS FROM OVERSEAS, who will be in Britain in December and wish to attend the Toc H Birthday Festival, are asked to send their particulars to the Festival Secretary at Headquarters as early as possible.

✽ MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BRANCHES (Central, Services and Area), who wish to attend the Birthday Festival, are asked to send their current membership card to the Festival Secretary now, with a request for particulars later.

✽ TUBBY landed in this country from the U.S.A. on April 27, in time to lead the Communion Services at All Hallows on Ascension Day.

✽ DONALD CAMPBELL, who has been a member of the Central Executive since 1937 and Chairman since 1944, did not stand for re-election this year at the annual meeting of the Central Council.

Afterwards he wrote: "It is with real regret that I leave the Central Executive and Council. I shall always look back with pleasure on the happy days we spent together. Rightly or wrongly I feel that new blood is wanted on the Executive and that no member should run the risk of outstaying his welcome! I believe that I can still serve Toc H in other directions." And he is doing so—on the Central Finance Committee, at various Area functions and with Toc H in the City of London and around Sevenoaks. We are grateful to a Chairman who has never spared himself in his Executive work at home and his visits overseas and who continues his intense interest in every aspect of Toc H.

The Elder Brethren

BENN.—On April 23, FRANCES CHARLOTTE BENN, aged 84, wife of Sir Ion Hamilton Benn (a Vice-President of Toc H), an early member of Toc H (Women's Section) and a good friend of Toc H for many years.

BOND.—On April 3, GEORGE BOND, aged 66, a member of Orpington Branch. Elected 21.2.'27.

DAVIES.—On February 29, STEPHEN DAVIES, aged 51, a member of Denbigh Branch. Elected 4.'41.

DENSUMBE.—On April 7, JACK T. DENSUMBE, aged 61, member of Brislington Branch. Elected 9.2.'48.

ELDERKIN.—On April 4, FRANK ELDERKIN, aged 63, a member of Northampton Branch. Elected 1.1.'24.

MEDLICOTT.—On April 12, at Nairobi, Col. HENRY EDWARD MEDLICOTT, D.S.O., aged 66, Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, a former Overseas Commissioner of Toc H. Elected 3.5.'28.

PIDLER.—On March 16, FREDERICK PIDLER, aged 74, a member of Port Isaac Branch. Elected 3.6.'39.

WEAVER.—On February 2, WILLIAM WEAVER, aged 57, a member of Stourbridge Branch. Elected 6.7.'32.

YATES.—On April 1, FRANK YATES, aged 59, a member of Morecambe Branch. Elected 10.3.'27.

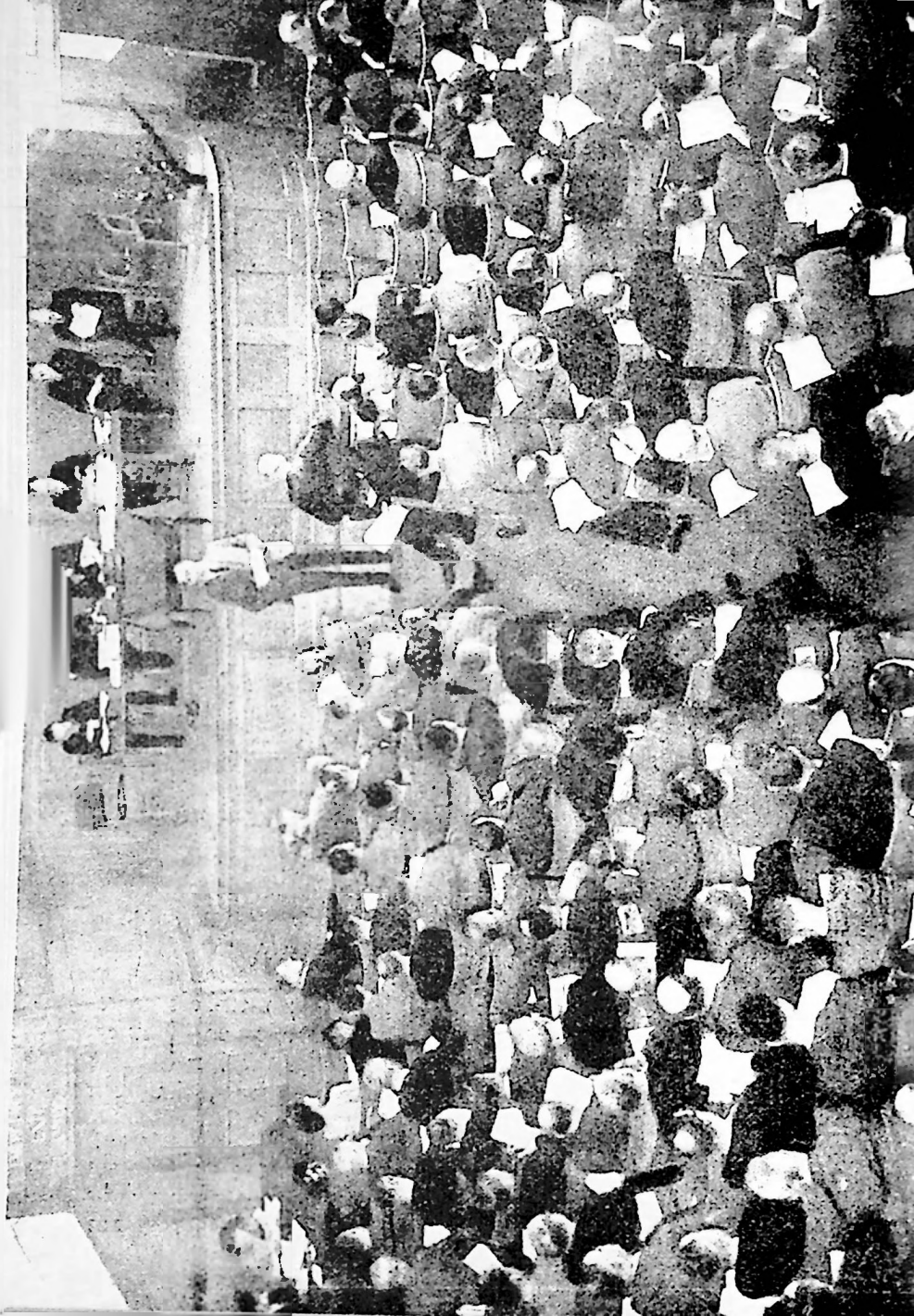
The Central Council Meeting

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Central Council was the second and last of the Council in office for 1946-48; elections for the new Council will take place this Autumn. The meetings were held on April 17 and 18 in Church House, Westminster. The Saturday session took place in the Hoare Memorial Hall, used, without any publicity by the House of Commons in 1941, '42 and '44, a chapter of Parliamentary history commemorated in Church House shortly after our Council meeting by the unveiling there of a tablet by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee. The Sunday session was held in the smaller hall named after Bishop Frank Partridge, a member of the earliest Toc H committee in 1919 and of the Central Executive for many years after. So we met this year on historic ground.

DONALD CAMPBELL took the chair, for the last time before retiring from the Central Executive.

Councillors present numbered 101, out of a possible 124. As usual, leave to speak was given to non-Councillors, who had no power to vote. These included representatives of the Central Executive and Staff of Toc H (Women's Section); members of Toc H Staff, padre and lay, from H.Q. and Areas; Hon. Area Correspondents; Marks Padres and Pilots; the Commissioner, B.A.O.R.; the General Secretary of BELRA; members representing the Central Finance, Revenue, Properties, Houses, Elections and Old House Committees and the Services Teams; members from Accra, Argentine, Australia, India, Southern Rhodesia and U.S.A.

Prayers, which included the reading of the 'Main Resolution', were led by Padre JOHN JONES (Kent, Surrey and Sussex Area).



Messages of greeting were read from 'Tubby' (in U.S.A.), from Toc H in Hong Kong, from the Hon. Commissioners of Toc H in Australia and New Zealand, and from 'Lemon' in Melbourne and Jack Shaw in Wellington, New Zealand.

'Light' was taken by BARKIS in memory of Alec Paterson, first Chairman of the Central Executive and a President of Toc H.

Administrative Padre: The Council confirmed the Central Executive's appointment of the Rev. HERBERT LEGGATE as Administrative Padre for the normal term of two years, and noted that the Rev. GILBERT WILLIAMS had also been re-appointed an Administrative Padre.

The Accounts

WILLIAM A. HURST (Hon. Treasurer) first drew the Council's attention to the balance of the *Services Fund*, which could only be used for the Services at home and overseas, Colonial Police Forces and the Merchant Navy. Work in the Far and Middle East continued, though much reduced by the movement of troops. The Club in Jerusalem had just been closed by military order. Besides the Seafaring Boys' Club in Southampton and a new club for the R.A.F. at Halton to be opened at Wendover in June, the policy of development in other directions was being considered. The main commitment was in Germany. The Treasurer paid tribute to the work of John Hawkey and the Council's thanks were accorded to him on leaving the Staff. During his period of office as Bursar, about £400,000 had been given for Services work.

With regard to the *Hostels Accounts*, the Treasurer thanked the Central Houses Committee and the Hon. Wardens of the Marks for changing a deficit on the previous year's working to a small surplus. On the *General Accounts* of the Corporation, although expenditure had been £16,000 in excess of income, the income had been £48,459, an all-time record due to the efforts of the Branches and Toc H Builders. He paid tribute to the work of local bursars and treasurers and to the great help received from members of Toc H (Women's Section). He reminded Councillors that many Branches organised money-raising functions for some very excellent charities but few seemed to realise that this was a means of raising money for Toc H itself which

could be of great value in maintaining and extending our work. It was hoped to keep this year's expenditure within the income target of £60,000, though on the first five months the income was £7—8,000 short. An appeal was to be broadcast by Sir Frederick Bain on June 27, but much depended on the work of Councillors in contact with Branch, District and Area leaders. In seconding, Brian Dickson expressed thanks to Jack Harrison and his small but efficient staff.

Constitutional Matters

Arising from matters raised at the previous Council meeting, a report on "Constitutional Matters" was submitted on behalf of the Central Executive and accepted. In presenting six points, HUBERT SECRETAN explained why, in the view of the Central Executive, the time had not come to seek *revision of the Charter*. Revision is both slow and expensive and a new pattern once approved by the Privy Council must be stereotyped for some years ahead. So long as we can get the machinery we want, e.g. Area Executives, there is wisdom in not going too fast and there is nothing to show that the life and work of Toc H is being in any way impeded by the provisions of the Charter. It is most undesirable to occupy the movement in discussing constitutional matters when every ounce of energy should be given to the desperately urgent practical problems of the day.

How to get the *best kind of Central Executive* for the movement? The functions it has to perform are closer to those of a Cabinet than to those of a Parliament. Cabinet members are selected not according to the part of the country they come from, but for their capacity for the job in hand, for their variety of knowledge and experience, and for their ability to work together as a team. In the Central Executive what is needed is a team of men with a variety of experience of life in Toc H and of life outside Toc H, overseas as well as at home. The suggestion is that, apart from those elected by ballot from candidates throughout the British Isles, not more than four should be appointed by a show of hands on the recommendation of the Central Executive. This is intended to secure the services of Toc H members who, by reason of their work in lands remote from this, may not be so well known to Councillors.

This suggestion was translated into a resolution and passed. Two members, proposed and seconded by the Chairman and Administrator, were then appointed to the Central Executive by a show of hands—GERRY CHAMBERS, formerly of Toc H, Ceylon, and Lieutenant-General Sir HUMPHREY GALE, whose intimate knowledge of European countries would be invaluable.

The New Central Executive

Voting papers were collected later in the meeting, and the result, not announced until next day, showed the new Central Executive to be as follows:—

London and Home Counties

STAN BERWICK (*Kent, Surrey & Sussex*)
TOM BURCHALL (*Eastern London*)
BRIAN DICKSON (*Oxford & Thames Valley*)
WILFRED FLETCHER (*Beds. & Herts.*)
KEITH FRASER (*formerly Eastern London*)
HARRY GELL (*South Eastern London*)
G. J. MORLEY JACOB (*formerly N. and S. London*)
HUBERT SECRETAN (*Vice-President*)

Rest of Great Britain and Ireland

VINCENT CARTER (*Reading*)
MELVILLE DINWIDDIE (*Scotland*)
JOHN GOSS (*Chatham*)
GIL HARRISON (*Birmingham*)
SIR COLIN JARDINE (*Alton, Hants.*)
ERIC MOSS (*Manchester*)
PETER SIMPSON (*Leeds*)
EDGAR TROUT (*Plymouth*)

Ex-officio Members

Rev. P. B. CLAYTON (*Founder Padre*)
H. W. HOWE (*Administrator*)
WM. A. HURST (*Hon. Treasurer*)
Rev. HERBERT LEGGATE (*Administrative Padre*)

Appointed Members

G. P. CHAMBERS (*late of Toc H, Ceylon*).
Lieut.-General SIR HUMPHREY GALE

(NOTE: Of the sixteen elected members, eleven were members of the previous year's Executive, three had been members in earlier years and two are new members.)

The Annual Report

The Annual Report, which this year bore the title of "Looking Outwards", was presented by G. J. MORLEY JACOB, who had been acting as Chairman during Donald Campbell's absence in India.

'Looking outwards', he surveyed the world in trouble, the gathering storm-clouds, nineteen million men under arms, almost universal conscription, the colossal expenditure on armaments, the destructive and peaceful purposes of atomic energy. At home, standards had been lowered and crime had increased. Adolescent youth was finding little security. Figures suggested that one in every five marriages ended in disaster. How much worse was the plight of children in other lands? The United Nations Appeal for Children had startled us with such facts as thirty to forty million children confronted with starvation, deficiency diseases taking their toll everywhere, the lack of housing, clothing and educational material. Morley said:

"This is a grim picture which confronts us in Toc H today, but we are a family of optimists, not because we do not wish to face the facts, but because we face the greatest facts of all, namely that God is Love and that behind the ebb and flow of things temporal stands God, the eternal, the all-knowing, the all-loving Father. Toc H dares to call itself 'God's show'. Those who believe this know that in the darkness God is with us. His strength will sustain us. We are fellow-workers with Him and His purposes will prevail".

Before moving that the Report be received and considered Morley paid tribute to the work of Arthur Sevante in Palestine, the staff in B.A.O.R. and other parts of the world, those in the Areas and on visits overseas, and to the enthusiasm and inspiration of HAROLD HOWE, to whom, as Administrator, it fell to second the adoption of the Report. This he did briefly, referring to the co-operation of the Team at Headquarters. The Council then adjourned for tea.

Wednesdays or Saturdays?

On reassembling, RALPH BIDDULPH (West Midlands) proposed and DENIS GILMAN (Notts and Derby.) seconded:—

'That, following the Council meeting in April, 1949, the monthly meetings of the Central Executive be held on a Saturday afternoon'.

The movers held that Saturday meetings would enlarge the field from which candidates for the Central Executive could be drawn. The desirability of inviting nominations on that basis was advanced against the right of the Executive to fix its own meeting-days. HERBERT LEGGATE (Administrative Padre) pointed out that certain things would follow if the resolution were passed. He said:



ON THE PLATFORM: Left to right—Wm. A. Hurst (Hon. Treasurer, hidden by the Lamp), H. W. Howe (Administrator), Donald Campbell (Chairman), Rex Calkin (Gen. Secretary, speaking), G. J. Morley Jacob (Deputy Chairman), Herbert Leggate (Administrative Padre).

"You will not add to the number of week-ends staff are away from their homes. What you will do is to make it more difficult for the Staff at Headquarters to keep in touch with the Area Executives and other Area demands that almost invariably come at the week-end. Of course, there are additional difficulties that belong to people who work one day a week like Padres, but unfortunately at present almost every Area Executive chooses to meet on a Saturday. They do it, they say, of necessity because of difficulties of transport and because it suits the convenience of their members. Those Area Executives, we kid ourselves, like to see the Administrator or his deputy at their meetings. There are only so many week-ends in the year. If you take one week-end out of every month by passing this resolution, it ought to carry with it that you are going back to your Area Executive to explore once again the possibility of meeting during the week as an Area Executive. Then you can leave the staff out of your minds in considering this particular proposition. If you do not, you can still carry this resolution, if you wish, but your complaints, commiserations, your thanksgivings at the absence of the Administrator or his deputy will all fall on deaf ears, as they have been known sometimes to do!"

VINCENT CARTER pointed out that a lot of valuable work was done for the Central Executive by the sub-committees (over a dozen) on which one or two members of the Central Executive served. Obviously, the sub-committees could not meet at week-ends, and presumably people who could only come on Saturdays could not attend meetings of such sub-committees unless they meet on Saturdays.

Eventually 29 voted for the proposal and a majority against.

Membership Subscriptions

At the 1947 meeting the Council had confirmed the Central Executive's decision to exempt all members of Branches, other than the General Branch, from payment of Membership Subscriptions after November 1, 1948. (Fees for Lamps and Rushlights were also to be discontinued). This 'revolutionary' step had given rise to much discussion during the year in the Areas and differences of opinion among the membership had been expressed. From places where many members felt that the Council ought to reconsider its decision came two resolutions:

(A). SIDNEY ARNOLD (on behalf of Branches in Huddersfield and Heavy Woollen Districts, West Yorks. Area) proposed to move, and J. MARRIOTT to second—

'That this Council rescinds its confirmation of the Central Executive's decision to exempt all members of Branches, other than the General Branch, from payment of Membership Subscriptions after November 1, 1948, and asks the Central Executive to continue the practice at present in force, fixing the amount of the annual membership subscription at five shillings'.

(B). BERNARD SHARPLES (on behalf of Branches in East Lancashire and Pendle Districts, Manchester Area) proposed to move, and STAN DAWES to second—

'That this Council endorses the decision of the Central Council of 1947 in abolishing Membership Capitation Fees, but, in view of the changing economic situation, feels that the time is not opportune for the immediate implementation of that decision, and resolves that it be deferred for the present'.

Clearly if Motion A were passed, Motion B could not be considered. Motion B, with the consent of the mover and seconder, was therefore ruled to be an amendment and put first. After the proposers and seconders of the two resolutions had stated their case, a dozen speakers followed each other in quick succession. Two of these supported the rescinding of last year's Council decision outright, and one of them claimed to represent 100 per cent. of the opinion of the three Districts who were his 'constituents'. The opposition made much play with two phrases—that the proposal to abolish membership subscriptions was "a venture of faith" and that to go back on it would be a case of "cold feet". To the argument that the time was not ripe for such a change, our speaker retorted that "the time is never ripe" and another that Toc H in order to succeed must follow

the lead of the first Christians after Pentecost and "go crackers". When the amendment (the original Motion B) was put to the vote a few hands went up in its favour and a large majority against; the same fate, befell Motion A. The Council's decision in 1947 to abolish subscriptions therefore stands.

An immediate consequence to be noted is, of course, that the issue of a membership card (a practice to be retained) will no longer follow automatically on payment of a capitation fee. By November 1, 1948, Branch Executives will be asked to take steps to review their membership so that by January, 1949, a roll may be compiled of Branch Members 'in good standing', taking as a criterion something deeper and wider than the payment of a compulsory membership subscription—"the test of a man's value to the membership and the test of the value of the membership to a man".

Report on India, Pakistan and Ceylon

THE CHAIRMAN had recently returned from a strenuous business visit to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and extracts from a letter home, quoted in the April JOURNAL, gave readers some of his impressions. He was now able to report in greater detail to the Council. He opened by saying that his remarks must be considered merely as those of a visitor, who had been able only to see units in Bombay, Lahore, Calcutta and Madras; at Delhi and Karachi, the capitals of the new Dominions of India and Pakistan which he had visited, he was sorry to find that Toc H had 'packed up'.

At *Bombay*, where he had taken part in the World Chain of Light, he had found the three units alive and a good mixture, doing good work. *Lahore* had arranged a Sunday meeting at which about sixteen were present, to suit his convenience; they were a good mixture, with rather too small a European element. Several members had played a very fine part in the disastrous troubles of last August, when they were the only people able to move freely between the hospitals of Hindus and Moslems. In *Rawalpindi*, further North, only half-a-dozen members were left and were wondering if they could carry on.

Though there was now no unit in *Delhi*, he met the ex-Job-master, who spoke of the wonderful spirit throughout the war

and paid high tribute to the Indian Christian women. The small Indian Christian community is not highly educated and not accustomed to lead, but his informant had seen three of its girls carrying out inoculations in a refugee camp of 40,000, where the stench was appalling, the ground ankle-deep in mud after heavy rain and the poorest rations provided. The Christian witness of such people had made a deep impression, not only on the main communities in and around Delhi but on the Indian Government. In *Calcutta* there was a very good unit, doing a grand job of work. It was almost entirely European and, therefore, not representative of India as it is today, but it was healthily critical of itself.

The Chairman then turned to South India. *Madras*, he said, is the kernel of Toc H India for the future. He paid a warm tribute to Paul, the Indian Editor of *The Lamp* of Toc H, which deserves all our support. He continued :

"Seven or eight Units in the South of India are full of vitality and Christian witness. The divisions in the Christian church are almost as great as the Hindu caste divisions, but in Toc H, although most of them cannot understand the full background of our movement, they do understand the 'Four Points of the Compass' and the 'Main Resolution', and they do appreciate that they have got to get together. In South India, where the Christian Community is strong, more and more Indians are coming forward, more are going into the fighting forces, local government, and so on. They want to play a part as Christians. Against that background we are to set Toc H. If we have faith and if we believe there is a task for Toc H in India, then surely it is our job to do what we can. The main thing is to send out a Toc H Staff man. If we cannot do without staff in this country, then it surely is not fair to expect the Indian Christians to do so. A staff man going out this year in the autumn could do a big job. He would probably have to confine himself to Southern India, with a possible visit to Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. His principal job would be to pick leaders.

"Toc H is spreading in South India, even to the extent of hoping to start in the villages, which perhaps is too ambitious as it would involve translation into the vernacular. If our staff man can get hold of the right type of leaders and teach them, if he could bring one home here, infuse him with our ideas and send him back inspired with Toc H as a large family, that would be grand work".

The Chairman referred briefly to Toc H in Ceylon and Burma. He had not been able to visit Rangoon, but in Colombo he had talked with two leading members who were doubtful about the future of Toc H in Ceylon. Possibly a staff man, if sent out from home, could spare time to visit them.

When this report ended, KEITH FRASER rose to express the regret of the Council that Donald was not standing for re-election to the Central Executive, though he would continue on the Finance Committee and in other activities. He had served for ten years on the Executive and for four as Chairman, and the grateful thanks of the Council were accorded to him.

Interlude: Saturday Night and Sunday Morning

The first session ended, and 160 of those present made their way to a restaurant where they supped together in a gay mood. Informal talks were given after supper by Mr. Justice TREDGOLD (Chairman of Toc H in Southern Rhodesia), Miss JOAN HAMMOND (Melbourne), Padre GILBERT WILLIAMS (just home from Canada), RONALD SYMONS (formerly in India), W. W. CARTER (Accra), Padre PAUL WEBB (Commissioner in B.A.O.R.) and others.

On Sunday morning many were at All Hallows early, and breakfasted and lunched at 42 Trinity Square.

The Situation in Germany

When the Council reassembled at Church House on Sunday afternoon, IAN FRASER was asked to speak about Germany, on which he had reported to the Central Executive after his visit some months ago; he wrote an article on the subject in the April JOURNAL and had added a few words at the Council Supper to Paul Webb's talk. Making no attempt to picture conditions of life in Germany, which, as he said, "defy description and beggar one's imagination", he dealt with the two parts of the job of Toc H there—its service to the troops of the B.A.O.R., its Allies and the civilians of the Control Commission, and its responsibilities towards the Germans. The necessity for work for our own people grew as the occupation lengthened; young soldiers saw no purpose in their service and were corrupted by the conditions round them.

"In the first place", he said, "our task undoubtedly is to give them a real sense of responsibility in the job they are engaged upon and bring them to a recognition that it is the things they do and the quality of persons that they are that will finally demonstrate to the German people a new way of living . . . The second thing is to provide the means whereby these fellows can intelligently use themselves and their leisure. This means that in our Clubs and Toc H Circles we must provide not only the normal amenities of Services Clubs but

the positive creative principles of life on which their efforts should depend. The third thing is that a really adequate demonstration of the Western way of life can only be given to the Germans when the occupying people go out of their way to take responsibility in social work for the degradation and misery that they see about them. This has to be taught to the German people through societies like ourselves.

"On the other side are the German people. I do not think that we recognise to a sufficient degree the spiritual bankruptcy, at any rate of the 18's to 35's, in Germany. We do not realise that the breaking of Fascism has meant the triumph of Nihilism; life has largely become meaningless to them, almost a process of drift—a strange world in which there are no definite colours of any kind, no principle by which they can relate anything to their own experience or the experience of folk around them . . . Unless some sense of creative life comes into this spiritual vacuum, the situation grows progressively worse, not better. It is that enormous problem with which we are faced. Is there anything we can do about it?"

Ian thought there was. He believed that the Anglo-German discussion groups which existed in all our Clubs provided a basis for teaching a new way of community, but more intensive effort was needed. We had to convince the British element of the importance of their mission and to win more of them to work alongside Germans in these groups.

"You cannot succeed", he said, "where the numbers of Germans run up to, say, 100 and the number of British involved is about three, because the balance of unbelieving persons is a hopeless counterweight, and you cannot build a family life in terms of those numbers. We have to reduce our numbers (say twenty-five Germans with four or five British) and multiply the number of the groups themselves. These people together can then do the ordinary things that Toc H always does, that is express fellowship in terms of service to other people outside in the world. This witness is needed in Germany today, and it is of fundamental importance that we should stay in Germany as long as we can".

For "the people on the job" occupation was soul-destroying work; our men were lonely and without external standards by which to check their own conduct. We had to show that we cared about them and to knit them closer to our family.

SIR COLIN JARDINE, PAUL WEBB and others also spoke, and, in answer to a question about the part played by the German Churches, HERBERT LEGGATE made a striking contribution.

Present and Future in Canada

GILBERT WILLIAMS, who recently returned from a visit, said his impressions of Toc H in Canada were very different from those of his visit twenty years ago. The Mark in Toronto was

a good 'show'. In seven places, from Winnipeg to Vancouver, in which there had previously been units, there were now none at all. In one place there were seven members who never met but said that they were "keeping the light burning". There were not more than about 270 members in the whole Dominion.

One of the causes of failure in Toc H in Canada was that it had centred around the legacy of England and of the Old House, and in the rebuilding of a Canadian Toc H there must be a definite break-away from this tradition. Toc H had a real part to play in the life of the Dominion today, but unless it was possible to send out two staff men, he feared that in five years' time Toc H would have faded out completely in the greater part of Canada.

Reflections

This year's Annual Report, printed in the April JOURNAL, was in three parts—'The Facts', 'The Figures' and a third section, for which the Administrator alone was responsible, called 'Reflections'. HAROLD HOWE was given the final period of the Council session to discourse on matters connected with his 'Reflections'. It is a pity that space compels us here to reduce his fascinating talk to a summary, necessarily inadequate.

The Annual Report had opened with a sentence about 'stock-taking' and had continued: "The year 1947 has shown that the stock is in good condition, the crew in good heart and the prospects fair for further voyaging". Alongside this metaphor of the Toc H ship, said the speaker, some might remember the lines of Arthur Hugh Clough:

Where lies the land to which the ship would go.
Far, far away is all her seamen know.
And where the land she travels from? Away,
Far, far behind, is all that they can say.

These did not seem to be very efficient seamen, lost in an uncharted ocean, unable to use their compass. Yet there were some members of Toc H in like case, not knowing the destination or purpose of their voyage. Their first duty was to look on facts—not only material but also spiritual facts. He quoted from a recent speech of Robert Birley, Educational Adviser in the British Zone of Germany, who had said that what is needed today was "a complete break with that ill-defined belief in economic determinism, which is the prevailing view (one can



Tea-interval: Vincent Carter (C. Executive), Charles Wake (London), Reg Havercroft (Publications Clee).

hardly give it a more dignified name) of most people today, a belief which is a reflection of that helpless sensation of being controlled by events rather than having any power to control them", and secondly, a conviction "that there is still in democratic Western civilisation a dynamic force, a spirit of life, as strong as in the other faiths". This

belief was challenged by Communism, and, Harold went on,

"We have to face Communism, and one of our great dangers is the number of intelligent people who are saying that there is only one thing to do with Communism, as with Fascism—to eliminate it. This method is one of the evils common to both Fascism and Communism: it is not the technique of Toc H or of a Christian society. It seems to me to stand out a mile that, if we are to see Western civilisation rebuilt, we must be so certain of the values of our Christian faith being better and deeper and more powerful for the life of man than those of Communism, that we shall find these values taking the shock of Communism and gradually dominating it—rather, let us say, absorbing it. I suggest that this is not too big a subject for Toc H to look at and work out".

This led him to ask himself whether Toc H had a particular contribution to make in the world in which we were living, whether it had something that those outside it wanted. There was no doubt that Toc H today had an instrument ready to hand; the organisation, man-power and keenness were there for the job. But we had to be sure that Toc H was peculiarly fitted to do a job for society which no other Christian organisation could do or do so well. He gave his reasons for believing this was so in connection with what he saw as seven characteristics of the present age:

1. *Frustration*: In a prevailing depression, Toc H was trained "to disown discouragement": it accepted the fact that there was frustration but did not join in it.

2. *Prejudice and hatred* was countered by Toc H with fair-mindedness. We needed to think out fair-mindedness, to

examine our prejudices and particularly our tendency to think of people in classes, blocks or masses instead of in terms of personalities.

3. *Disintegration*: The atom bomb had a tendency to reduce things to splinters—and things were in splinters today. "Where things tend to come apart, Toc H deliberately tries to see a unity in diversity, to bring them together by the principle of fellowship".

4. *Carelessness*—summed up in a favourite expression of the age, "I couldn't care less". Toc H met carelessness with the principles of responsibility and service. It would never have come into existence if it had not believed that human progress depended on a few people being prepared to carry more than their share of the world's burdens. That was what membership and leadership meant in Toc H.

5. *Regimentation*: We were all tired of being pushed about, even in Toc H, and told what to do. One of the popular philosophies of the day was 'anarchism', a reaction against the State's control of the individual, the protest of the individual against being pushed about. As a Christian society, Toc H met regimentation with an emphasis on the value of the individual and the preciousness of the personality.

6. '*Economic Determination*'—the idea that events controlled us, an idea not true but prevalently held. Toc H met it by the assertion that persons mattered most, that through personal relationships, by a seed, a thought dropped from one person's mind into another person's mind, things happened. In other words, persons were greater than events.

The Gen. Secretary of Toc H (Women's Section) takes tea with the Administrator of Toc H.



7. *Ideals versus Practice*—the conflict between idealism and materialism. Toc H set out to reconcile them—as a Councillor had said, it walked with its head in the air and its feet on the

ground (a good definition of a human being). Toc H, and indeed Christianity, saw the truth of life in the tension between the ideal and the material. That was the tremendous impact of the Incarnation. In Toc H, for instance, (1) fellowship was tied up with service; (2) money was tied up with men—in other societies money dealt with figures, in Toc H with persons.

This last point led Harold to discuss 'counting the cost', first of sending staff to Canada (as Gilbert Williams had asked), then of 'following the flag' in Services work overseas, then of deploying paid staff to the best advantage. He passed on to the question of the quality of membership. He had been "tremendously cheered" by the Council's confirmation of the abolition of capitation fees.

"I think", he added, "one of the soundest things said was that we must not assume that there will not be more money coming in on the new way. Are we not the only Christian society, or—if that is going too far—is there any branch of the Christian Church that charges a capitation fee? If not, were we not slightly out of date before yesterday? The real point is that we can no longer use the payment of a subscription as a test of a man's value . . . For the first time we have to decide what we mean by a valuable member of Toc H, what is a member 'in good standing'. Our resources are not financial; they can only be truly estimated in terms of human qualities".

Two things were needful in Toc H today—faith and imagination. Faith meant a deep conviction of the truth of Christianity and personal loyalty to Jesus Christ; that was the greatest treasure any man had ever found and he had to share it with others. As to imagination, Toc H must not be so tied to its traditions or its machinery, however good, that it could not experiment. He instanced jobmastery and the relations between Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section) as fields for experiment. Then he concluded:

"Are we needed today? I think we are. Rome is burning, a large part of it is burnt. There are any number of fiddlers, and any number of people escaping. (Toc H, by the way, can be a comfortable means of escape; any ideal movement may become a form of escapism.) But here we are—members of Christ, children of God, inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven. Can we build, with our poor leadership, a revival of life, so that God may use us to save His great experiment of the creation of man, a creature free to plan his own destruction but at the same time to create beauty, truth and goodness?"

On this high note, after brief discussion, and with a benediction, the Councillors of 1948 dispersed to their widespread posts of duty.